THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, October 10, 1808.

THE UNFORTUNATE FRIARS,

A COMIC TALE.

[From Strutt's Queenhoo-Hall, a Romance.]

A Dissour, or professional story-teller, is represented as coming to a country alehouse late in the evening, and proposes, that if the company present will raise money to defray his night's lodging and incidental refreshment, he will tell a merry story. The guests readily do this, and the dissour accordingly tells of two travelling priests, who, being benighted in their way to Oxford, came to the gate of a small priory, and begged for admission. The porter thinks they are minstrels or jugglers, and is glad to let them enter, in hopes of some entertainment from them. It happens, that the prior and sub-prior of this priory are gone to Oxford, being convened there by the bishop; and the sacrist, the cellerer, and the rest of the brethren, being lusty bloods and enemies to penance, agreed to hold a night of revelry in their absence.

It was Christmas eve, and our two priests were introduced to the revellers, and expected to perform their part towards the general merriment; but when it is discovered that they are neither jugglers nor minstrels, they are turned out of doors to get a night's lodging where they may. They had not gone far from the priory when they met a troop of courtezans, going thither for the comfort of the friars. The two priests guessed what was going forwards, but held on their way in darkness and uncertainty; and here let our author continue the narrative:—

" Some time afterwards they reached the borders of a large wood, where there were several roads; and while they were hesitating which they should chuse, the lights appeared again among the bushes, but much nearer, and discovered a large train of horsemen, with their servants bearing lighted torches; and, upon their approach, our travellers perceived them to be ecclesiastics, which made them right glad; and, humbly addressing themselves to him who appeared to be the highest in authority, besought him dearnly to acquaint them where they might find housing 'till the morning. ' We are,' said they, ' God wot, two priests, who have far travelled, and, as you see, benighted in this stound, and sore amated by the cold wind and the snow.' ' Gramercy!' returned the horseman, ' but certes ye be in no couthly plight, and have unwittingly overshot the only place for harbour near at hand; aread me, my friends, how haps it you passed the priory to the right? for well I ween ye have travelled that road. It is the duty of thilk brotherhood to receive strangers, for Godsake, and to fare them well.' ' Certes then,' said Dan John, ' they have full foully dealt by us;' and with that he related to the horseman what had passed there; the manner in which they had been thrust from the doors; and the arrival of the jolly wassellers, who had been admitted afterwards. ' By holy Saint Benedict, our bles-ed patron!' returned the prior, for it was him they were speaking to, ' if ye tell me no leesings, I will make them dear aby this misrule. Ye shall go back with me, and my authority, I ween, will make sicker your welcome;' so saying, he caused two of the grooms to dismount, and having set the priests upon their horses, they rode together towards the priory; when the prior, having a crafty thought in his head, to be himself, unseen, a witness to the jolliment, and to work the more shame upon the lusty revellers, caused his followers to abide at that stound, in a dell, at a short distance from the priory, and he, with the two priests, went forward on foot. He had with him a key of a private door belonging to his own apartment, and afforded communication with a gallery, in which was a window that commanded a full view of the hall, and the company therein assembled. Here he came, with his two companions, and was presently assured, from his own kenning, that they had not belied the brethren.

" The supper was just serving up, and the prior desiring the priests to remain there, and carefully note where every thing should be deposited, so as to bear the same in memory, withdrew, and returned to his company, who all came forward with him; and knocking aloud at the gate, every thing in the hall was suddenly thrown into the utmost confusion, the alarm being given, that the prior and sub-governors were returned; the boards were cleared in an instant, the cloths removed, and the

Iemans,

lemans, who visited the pious fraternity, were incontinently thrust into a hiding-place; and such of the friars, whose duty called them not to wait upon their superiors, slunk into their cells, bestowing many a malediction upon their mishap, in having so fair a game so foully stinted.

"When the prior entered the hall, he enquired why he found so large a fire in the chimney; and, after some hesitation, the sacrist told him, 'that the night being cold, the brethren had met there to say their vespers.' 'By my holy dame,' said the prior, 'here is a savoury smell! I trust their prayers have been well received; and as the hall is right warm, I hold it good to tarry here, for in sooth I am somewhat surbett with riding; lay a carpet upon the board, with napkins; I would fain have wherewithall to eat.' 'My lord,' quoth the cellerer, 'the fire is made in the refectory, and the purveyor will cover the board there in a short space.' 'Gramercy, for your diligence,' answered the prior, 'it is right commendable; but now I remember me, I have brought with me from Oxford a cunning clerk, who deals in magic, and is a subtle tragetour; he has promised to show me of his craft, and to work many wondrous doings; I am not the churl to have this pastime to myself, but am willing all the brethren should, at this merry tide, be partakers with me.'

"He then caused all the friars to be summoned, and when they had entered the hall, to take their places, they were somewhat asterted by the hest of the prior, but when they saw there was no semblaunce of upbrayings in his countenance, they seated themselves more chearily.

"The prior then whispered to the sub-prior, who forthwith went privily to the gallery where the priests had been placed; and having furnished them with disguisements, so that they could not readily be known again by those who had seen them before, they were brought into the hall; Dan John passed for the joculator, and his companion for his servant, who carried a small box under his arm, when the prior spake to Dan John in this wise:—'Certes, I am told you are a skilful tragetour, and well learned in pastimes of magic; if so be, show us of your ability at this merry tide, and you shall not miss your meed.' 'So please you, my lord,' replied Dan John, 'I am willing to overstep my accustomed practice, and sithence you have been long fasting upon your journey, I hold it right meet to have the tables covered for your refreshment.' 'By Saint Thomas,' cried the prior, 'that were in sooth a good deed done, and marry none the worse if it be eftsoons done!' 'Your lordship,' quoth the pretended juggler, 'need only command the pages to pight the carpets, and spread the napkins, for I am ready to make an essay of my craft.' The carpets were pight, and the napkins spread incontinently. The friars at this tide

were nought inclined to mirth, but uneathly kept their seats, silently eying each other, and casting in their minds what selcouth gambol was to follow this preparation. Dan John called for a chafing-dish filled with live coals, and taking a portion of powder from the box which his companion bore beneath his arm, he cast the same upon the fire, saying, 'Wend hither, ye buxom spirits of the night, who confessen the power of this spell, and bring with you capons richly stewed, doe venison ybaked in pies, with wild ducks, cygnets, and other water fowl.' 'By the blessed martyr of Kent ye have said well,' quoth the prior; 'but so far as I can see, our supper will be an imaginary one.' 'Aread you, my lord,' returned the juggler, 'the spirits I have called upon are real spirits, and wend to and fro without being kenned by mortal eyes, but cause the closet at your lordship's right hand to be opened, and you shall be my witness the goblins have not deceived me.' The closet was opened, and the dainties produced. 'And now,' continued Dan John, 'I will add some other dishes well accorded to the season;' so saying, he repeated his spell, and hight his spirits to bring 'a brave boar's head well brawned, chines of fat porkers, and turkies roasted;' these were found in the opposite closet at the prior's left hand, and pight upon the table. 'The manchet, and fine bread,' added the juggler, 'will be found in abundance behind the high desk.'

"By this time the tables were fairly covered, when the prior spoke thus: 'In truth you are a notable artist, and have right well achieved a work of wonder; if the whole be not an illusion of the foul fiend, we shall not sleep with empty stomachs; but I wot, Syr, thir lacketh yet one thing, and that is wine.' 'In sooth, my lord, as I told you, mine are airy spirits, and meddle not greatly with that article; beneath the stalls there are a few pottle pots, but my familiar areads me, that he can find none better than in your lordship's cellars.' The prior laughed heartily at this conclusion; and having given his benediction, ordered the carvers to do their duty; 'for I perceive,' said he, 'this is none illusion, but substantial food, well ycooked and suited to the holy tide.'

The pious fraternity, whilom so joyous, now sat upon thorns, and sore abashed, foreseeing that this guileful beginning would bring forth a noyous ending; for they dempt well they had been bewrayed, but wot not by what malengine, unless the joculator really dealed with the Devil; yet, in order to gloss over the matter as far as they might, they partook of the provision, though with little appetite, and prayed lustily that every morsel might choke the juggler, who, nothing recking of their curses, with his companion, eat and drank chearily; and the prior, with the superior officers, were exceedingly facetious.

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" After the supper was ended, and the viands taken from the tables, the prior filled a large cup with white muscadel, and presented the same to Dan John, saying, ' Sickerly, my friend, we have to re-mercy you for a fair entertainment; this is the rarest cast of jugglery I ever beheld. But read me now soothly, I pray you, are these things counterfeited by the craft of magic natural, or by the couthly workings of spirits, or fairy elves, such as old stories tellen dance in the green meads by moon-light?' ' Wot you not, my lord,' said Dan John, ' I called my spirits by a charm, which magic natural teacheth, so cometh their obeisance; for, as I told you, they work unseen.' ' But may they not take upon them a bodily form, so be it you command them?' quoth the prior. ' Certes they may,' said John. ' Sithence you grant it so,' answered the prior, ' if you have not gone to the extent of your conning, I should like well to see some sprite, or elf, in human form.' ' In good sooth, my lord,' returned the juggler, ' you have proposed a deed uneathly to be performed; yet, to do you pleasure, I will not stint the essayment of my art, but I aread you all to be aware of harm, and to keep your places. The spirits I shall upraise are rightly seemly in their forms, but crafty and treacherous in their actions, and apt to entice men to lustful and wanton dalliance, unprofitable to their souls; and further I warn you to eschew them, for they be foul thieves and plunderers, and you must whip them soundly, or eftsoons they will return again, and rob your cellars, your kitchen, and your pantry, for wot ye well they be great gormandizers.' ' You say well,' said the prior, ' and I will order eight or ten of the most sturdy grooms from the stables, to stand accoiled with scourges in their hands, to smite when the time requires.'

" The grooms were forthwith brought into the hall, and placed near to the door, the station assigned to them by the juggler. The friars, algates they were sore awhaped, could no longer refrain from murmuring; they foresaw to what purpose this arrangement was made, and the sacrist, joined with the cellerer, made bold to address the prior in these words:—' My good lord, ourselves, and the brethren at large, intreat you to bear in souvenance, that we be forsaid to use such cursed conjurations, or, by craft of necromancy, hold communication with Sathan, or his foul angels; we are aghast at the evil workings of this wicked wizard, and beseech you to stint him; sithence the fiends be more puissant than mortal wights, and woe the while, if we attempt to overcraw them, they may raise a tempest of thunder to harrow our holy house, and bren us with the leven brand.' ' Be not accoyed, my brethren,' returned the prior, ' the piety with which you performed the vespers this evening, and the beadings you have made to God, the holy virgin, and all saints, at that stound, shall abet you from danger

of

of sorcery or enchantment: but well I wot the orgies now to be performed shall purify these walls from pollution, rather than endanger their downfall.'

"Dan John now threw the powder a third time into the fire, and then ordered the grooms to open the closet at the bottom of the hall, and incontinently a bevy of wanton bonnibelles rushed out, shrieking most piteously, when they were discovered. The grooms, according to the orders they had received, laid on the lash with lustihed, reckless of the cries and jangles of the seely wantons. The ruthful beadsmen, to empeach the chastisement of their dear lemans, rose up eftsoons, and, rushing towards the door, attempted to burst it open; in the scuffle the tables were subversed, and the lights at the lower end of the hall were suddenly queint; the tumult became general, and the friars, muddled together with the wenches, were beat down the one over the other, and whipped in their turns; for the sturdy grooms favoured none who came near them. The sacrist, in forcing open the door, struck his forehead against one of the abutments, and was nearly drent with his own blood; the cellerer, hastening to his relief, fell over a form, and bared his shin to the bone. Both of them bawled aloud for relief; but their cries were not distinguished amidst the general steven, shrieking, and scathful uproar.

"The prior withdrew to his apartment at the onset, and took the two priests with him; and when he thought the friars, and their lemans, were sufficiently yspent, he caused the chapel bell to be rung, and sent the sub-prior into the hall, to call away the grooms, and stint the riot. When the tumult was aslaked, the friars were ordered to take their places in the chapel, which they did with much reluctance; and the prior came thither to them, attended by the two priests, in their proper habits; he then upbrayed them, with many bitter reproaches, for their lewd deportment, and especially for their lack of charity; when, having suspended the sacrist and the cellerer from their offices for a season, he imposed a heavy penance on the brotherhood, and hight them to sing the midnight service, which well ye may wot, my masters, was done with more dreariment than devotion, and every one of them was permitted to depart to his cell.

"The two priests were fairly appayed for their trouble, and slept warm and quiet; in the morning they brake their fast well, and were dismissed by the prior with his benediction, for having exorcised the holy house, and driven thence, with their due guerdon, the lewd spirits which had haunted it in his absence. And so ends my tale."

LIFE

LIFE OF GENERAL JUNOT.

GENERAL JUNOT, calling himself duke of Abrantes, which he has assumed as one of the most ancient extinct titles of Portugal, is the son of a petty corn-chandler at Orleans, and was engaged in the servile drudgery of his father's business so late as the year 1789, but his dissolute habits having induced him to make rather free with his father's cash, the old man not approving of this species of equality, turned him out of his house; the pupil of liberty immediately proceeded to Paris, where his active philosophy soon introduced him to some of the members of the jacobin club, who judging him fit for their purposes, supported him a short time in the capital. The operations on the southern frontier requiring an augmentation of the national army, Citizen Junot, in his zeal to regenerate the country of Nice, which at that time was rather unenlightened, took up his musquet, and marched for Provence; and after the ravaging of the territory of Nice, in which this active citizen displayed his civism and philanthropy, he was with the army in Provence, at the time of the evacuation of Toulon by the British and Spanish forces. The circumstance which more immediately led to the promotion of Junot by Napoleon is related in page 671 of our present volume, to which we refer our readers.

On the surrender of Toulon he made himself particularly noticed by his share in the atrocities which were inflicted on all those who had favoured the British, when all those who had even lodged an Englishman in their houses, or who were suspected of being favourable to the old regime were assembled in the Champ de Mars, and butchered in cold blood, to the amount of fifteen hundred men, women, and children; an exploit boasted of by his friend, when he wrote to the convention "Upon the field of glory, my feet inundated with the blood of traitors, I announce to you, with a heart beating with joy, that your orders are executed, and France avenged!"

In the following autumn, when Napoleon was arrested as a terrorist, after the death of Robespierre, Junot shared his fate; but being liberated by a general amnesty, he followed the fortunes of his patron, and was appointed his aid-de-camp when elevated to the rank of commander in chief, in 1796. This promotion is supposed to have been greatly owing to his intermediate services at Paris, particularly on the 4th of October, 1795, when on the contest between the national convention and the sections of Paris, respecting the new constitution, Bonaparte with his artillery swept the streets in all directions, killing and wounding without mercy or distinction, until upwards of eight thousand of both sexes, and of all ages, were left weltering in their blood.

Throughout the campaigns in Italy he acquitted himself so as to preserve the confidence of his general, particularly at Mondovi, at Milan, and at Pavia, where by his cruel atrocities and skill in plundering, he proved his capability of commanding, and was promoted to the rank of colonel. When the expedition sailed for Egypt he embarked as aid-de-camp, and took an active part in that country, and in Syria, where he shared Bonaparte's most secret confidence, with the infamous Duroc, now grand master of the ceremonies at Paris; but owing to some unaccountable accident he was not one of those so slyly brought off by Napoleon, when he escaped by stealth, not only from the British, who were looking after him, but also from his own army. He was therefore left until 1802, when he returned to France "covered with glory;" but on his arrival was immediately appointed general of division, and soon after governor of Paris; here his despotic and cruel disposition made him an able supporter of Fouche, whom he rivalled in cruelty and extortion, and was strongly suspected of being, as well as Fouche, the private encourager of a daring gang of house-breakers and footpads, who were the terror of the capital in the winter of 1803, and of whom the few that were detected and brought to justice, were invariably screened by some invisible power, and permitted to elude all punishment. He resigned this command in 1805, *to our imperial brother*, Prince Murat; and we believe that it was shortly after this he chose an Albanian princess for his spouse, who is the present duchess of Abrantes.

When Lasnes had completed his fortune in Portugal, or when he was wanted for some other purpose, Junot superseded him at Lisbon, where, if his conduct at first was not so brutal as that of his predecessor, it was yet as abandoned and oppressive, though clothed in deep dissimulation. On the retreat of the Portuguese court, Junot took the command of the French troops destined to occupy Portugal, when he shewed his character in its true colours, by outraging the forms of religion, by general conscriptions of all property, and by every revolutionary meanness and atrocity which has so long disgraced the arms of France. Of his cruelty, dissimulation, and more recent robberies, it is unnecessary to give a detail; they are fresh in the memories of all, as well as his boasting about the reception he would give the British troops, who have already given him a lesson; the wealth he has acquired in Portugal must be great, but of that we hope he has been completely stripped; but he has still a large property left, which, including the lands granted him in Poland, is supposed to amount to 17,000l. per annum.

He is now in the vigour of life, but most uncouth and vulgar in his appearance, his face is seamed with scars, and his

manners are rude, boorish, and obtrusive; he is ignorant of all kinds of learning, yet is reckoned remarkable for his decision and capability, and certainly his conduct as a general, since the landing of our troops in Portugal, does not belie the general opinion formed of him. Of his honour the following anecdote is told, which we believe to be correct, though we do not vouch for its authenticity:—

Whilst governor of Paris, he was in the habit of frequenting the gambling-houses, and one evening at Frescati, in plain clothes, accompanied by a young man in the same costume, he stood near one of the tables where this young man staked rouleaux apparently of fifty louis d'ors, at rouge et noir. When the young man lost, he always took up his stake, and laid down another in its stead, but when at last he won, he exultingly told the banker to count the stake in his rouleau, when it was found to contain bank notes to the amount of one hundred thousand livres, about 4500l! A demand so extraordinary induced the bankers to refer it to the company, when Junot immediately interposed, said the young man was his aid-de-camp, and swore if they did not pay him instantly, that he would confiscate the bank, and arrest every individual of the company; not intimidated by this threat, they refused payment, when this *just republican* seized the cash on the table, but a tumult taking place, the guard was called in, and ordered to take sixteen of them to prison, where they remained until they could *settle* the business, whilst Junot and his aid-de-camp quietly pocketed all the cash they could find, and returned to their usual *seat of justice!!!*

LATE CONFLAGRATION.

To the EDITOR,

SIR,

REFLECTING on the many dreadful accidents that occur by means of that useful, but beyond certain bounds most destructive element, fire, and more particularly on the very alarming and distressing one on Tuesday the 20th instant, at Covent-Garden, I have been induced to examine the patent composition, lately invented by the ingenious Mr. J. Phillips, of Stonehouse, near Plymouth, and have endeavoured to ascertain whether it is, as he asserts in his advertisement, "Fire, as well as weather and water proof;" and from the experiments I have made, I am fully persuaded that it is a most valuable article, calculated completely as a barrier to that destructive element, and that it fully answers all the purposes he has stated. The experiments I made on it are as follow:—I separated a

piece of it about an inch square from the post of the door, to which I found it adhered so firm, that I was obliged to use a chissel to get it off. I then put it in an iron ladle, and brought it gradually to a degree of heat, that caused it to hiss on the application of water. After it was cool, I found the component parts as firm as ever, not in the least injured or altered. I determined to give it a more severe trial, which I did by keeping it over a fierce fire three quarters of an hour. The only effect was, a thin white coat appeared on both its surfaces, but its texture remained without the least crack, and perfectly firm. A deal box coated with it will stand the test of a severe flame without the least injury.

If then this composition possesses the power of repelling fire, which it most certainly does, would it not be prudent, in order to prevent those direful calamities, if proprietors of houses, &c. were to cause the ceilings of their rooms, &c. or even as much of the wood work in their respective buildings as possible, and more particularly those appropriated for public amusement, to be coated with it? The expence would be trifling, compared with the great utility that would result from it. I understand he sells it in barrels containing 200lb. weight, for five guineas, with complete directions for using it, which are perfectly simple. This quantity will cover about 500 superficial feet; in colour it resembles Portland stone; is void of smell; when dry, presents a smooth surface, is a preserver of wood, and renders whatever it is attached to as durable as stone itself. For further information I must refer you to his advertisement.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A CONSTANT READER.

September 30, 1808.

FASHIONS FOR THE MONTH.

[Extracted from "La Belle Assemblee; or, Bell's Court and Fashionable Magazine," for the present Month.

THE unfavourable weather, which has marked some part of the present month, has called forth, somewhat earlier than usual, the silk pelisse, which, with those of shawl muslin, lined with sarsnet of agreeably contrasted shades, are very well adapted as a shelter from the chill of autumn. These pelisses are usually worn with turbans, or small French poke bonnets, formed of the same material; as also with bonnets of straw, of the complete cottage form, with bands and tufts of folded sarsnet, or silk handkerchiefs of orange and green or purple

and

and amber shot. Black French chips, of the jockey form, with a small bunch of variegated chineaster in front, display much novelty and animation. Gipsy hats are still seen in the morning ramble, or in the stroll on the sea-beach; but they give place, in point of novelty and comfort, to the palm bonnet, of figured sarsnet, which is edged with a deep lace, and formed so as totally to obscure the countenance, except quite in front. In full-dress, coloured crape, over white satin, or white, with painted borders in fruit, or embroidered in autumnal flowers, are very much esteemed.

The Polonese vest, and Turkish robe, are remarkable for grace and elegance in this species of costume. The former is a revived habit, and is particularly calculated to display to advantage a tall and graceful figure. The Turkish robe differs little from what has been often exhibited, except that the sleeves (which are large and full) now meet, in the true, eastern style, the bend of the arm in front, and hanging long, are sloped to a point considerably below the elbow behind; it is also confined with a broad Turkish girdle, fastened in front with three clasps of gold, silver, or jewellery. These robes are chiefly composed of crape, tissue, imperial gauze, or muslin, and variously bordered in gold, silver, chenille, or coloured silks. Dresses of coloured gossamer net, worn over white sarsnet or satin, give a sort of silvery rainbow lustre, and are remarkable for delicacy and beauty.

The lace hoods and tippets are an elegant article; and so unique in themselves that they never can become offensively general. The pilgrim's hat and mantle, comprising much simplicity and novelty, and when formed of velvet or Georgian cloth, must be found a very appropriate, and will, doubtless, become a very fashionable winter article. The Brazilian coif, and emigrée cloak, with the Minerva helmet, are ornaments of considerable elegance; but are best adapted to the carriage costume.

The hair at watering-places is usually disposed in bands and braids. Curls (if natural) scarcely retaining their undulations when exposed to a damp air; and after bathing, the hair (even though sheltered by an appropriate cap) is generally found unyielding and refractory. The Grecian mob, formed entirely of lace, or of alternate muslin and lace beading, rounded, or pointed in the centre of the forehead, with a plaiting of French net entirely rounded, is usually seen under the gipsy hat, or straw bonnet, in the morning. They form also an appropriate in-door decoration for the head during the day. Indeed fancy caps of various descriptions are very much in request. Flowers, small half-squares of lace, with the corner rounded off, or the hair simply confined with a gold or silver comb, with an occasional Spanish, or shepherdess's hat, of pale blue satin, are

the only distinguishable adoptions for public occasions; and this simple style is considered more genteel at this intermediate season than a more shewy or splendid decoration. The waist continues its increased length, and has not yet exceeded that medium we continue to recommend.

Gowns are in a general way worn round, and of a walking length. It would now appear somewhat singular to see a lady walking the streets with a train. In full dress, however, we are glad to see them reviving. They absolutely belong to that species of costume; and our fair fashionables lose in appearance much grace and dignity without this appropriate and elegant appendage. Gowns of royal purple, grass-green, amber shawl muslin, or twill cambric, are considered very genteel habiliments, and have a lively and somewhat novel effect. They are formed in a simple round robe, a walking length, with a large cable cord, the colour of the dress, laid round the bottom, just above the hem. The sleeve is long, and the back without a seam; in front is an antique stomacher, laced with correspondent cord and buttons. Gold, silver, or pearl ornaments, can only be worn with these very lively and becoming robes. The Queen Catherine's hood and tippet are never so strikingly becoming as when worn with these dresses, to which they form so agreeable a contrast.

The glove is worn above the elbow, with the short sleeve. The most fashionable colours for the present season are shades of purple, green, bright amber, palm, and rose-colour.

Earl Macartney's Observations on China and its Inhabitants.

[From Barrow's Account of that Nobleman.]

THE empire of China is an old crazy first-rate man of war, which a fortunate succession of able and vigilant officers has contrived to keep afloat for these hundred and fifty years past; and to overawe their neighbours merely by her bulk and appearance; but whenever an insufficient man happens to have the command upon deck, adieu to the discipline and safety of the ship. She may, perhaps, not sink outright; she may drift some time as a wreck, and will then be dashed in pieces on the shore; but she can never be rebuilt on the old bottom.

Although the difference of ranks be, perhaps, more distinctly marked in China than in any other country, yet I often observed that the mandarines treat their domestic servants with great condescension, and talk to them with good nature and familiarity; but in return an unremitted attention and obedience are expected and never withheld.

A Chinese family is regulated with the same regard to subordination and economy that is observed in the government of a state; the paternal authority, though unlimited, is usually exercised with kindness and indulgence. In China, children are indeed sometimes sold, and infants exposed by the parents, but only in cases of the most hopeless indigence and misery, when they must inevitably perish if kept at home; but when the thread of attachment is not thus snapped asunder by the anguish of the parent, it every day grows stronger and becomes indissoluble for life.

There is nothing more striking in the Chinese character through all ranks than this most respectable union. Affection and duty walk hand in hand, and never desire a separation. The fondness of the father is constantly felt and always increasing; the dependence of the son is perfectly understood by him; he never wishes it to be lessened. It is not necessary to coax or to cheat the child into the cutting off an entail, or the charging his inheritance with a mortgage; it is not necessary to importune the father for an irrevocable settlement. According to Chinese ideas, there is but one interest in a family; any other supposition would be unnatural and wicked. An undutiful child is a monster that China does not produce; the son, even after marriage, continues for the most part to live in the father's house; the labour of the whole family is thrown into one common stock under the sole management of the parent; after whose death the eldest son often retains the same authority, and continues in the same union with his younger brothers.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE KAINSI,

A Species of Gazelle, or Antelope.

[From Le Vaillant's Second Journey into the Interior of Africa.]

THE kainsi has received from the Dutch its name of rock-jumper *(klip springer)*, merely on account of the nimbleness with which it bounds from rock to rock; and, in fact, of all the gazelle tribe it is the most active. It is the size of a roebuck of a year old, and has a coat of a yellowish grey; but its hair is singular in this respect, that, instead of being round, supple, and solid, like that of most quadrupeds; it is flat, harsh, and so little adherent to the skin, that the least friction causes it to fall off. Hence nothing is more easy than to strip the animal of hair, dead or alive; friction, or even touching the skin, is sufficient for the purpose. Often have I endeavoured to preserve the fur of those which I had killed, without being

being able to effect it; notwithstanding all my precautions in skinning them, the greatest part of the hair fell off. Another particularity is the brittleness of the hair; which is such, that if a portion be taken between the fingers, and twisted with the other hand, the hairs break. This property, however, is common to several quadrupeds which live among rocks.

This gazelle also differs from the other species in the form of its hoof, which is not pointed like their's, but rounded at the extremity; and, as it is its custom, in leaping, or walking, to pinch with the point of the hoof, without bearing on the heel, it leaves a print distinguishable from those of all the African antelopes. Its flesh is exquisite, and much in request, especially among the hunters. The panthers and leopards are equally fond of it. I have heard the Hottentots relate that these animals unite to hunt the kainsi; and that, when the latter has taken refuge on the point of some steep rock, one of them will go below to wait for the prey, while the rest advance and try to force it to precipitate itself. I do not, however, give credit to these pretended associations of animals of the tyger kind.

The chace of the kainsi is very amusing. It can scarcely, indeed, be forced by dogs, from whom it soon escapes by its inconceivable agility, and gets out of their reach on the point of some insulated rock; on which it remains for hours together, safe from all pursuit, and suspended, as it were, over the abyss; but in this position it seems to offer the best mark to the ball or the arrow; and the hunter almost constantly shoots it. Many times have I been witness of the extreme nimbleness of this animal; but one day I saw an instance of it which astonished me. I was hunting one, and, from the nature of the place, it was suddenly so pressed by my dogs, that it seemed to have no possibility of escape. Before it was an immense perpendicular crag, which stopped it short; but on this wall, which I thought vertical, was a little ledge, projecting two inches at most, which the kainsi had perceived. He leaped on it, and, to my great surprise, held fast. I thought at least that he would soon be precipitated; and my dogs themselves so much expected it, that they ran below to seize him when he should fall. I threw stones at him, to endeavour to make him lose his balance. All at once, as if he had divined my intention, he collected all his force, sprang to my side, flew over my head, and then, alighting some paces from me, escaped like lightning. I might still easily have shot him, but his leap had so surprised and pleased me, that I gave him his life. My dogs only were taken in, who, confused at his escape, did not return to me without a kind of shame.

ORIGIN OF TEA DRINKING.

ABOUT the year 1720, tea was unknown as a beverage in this kingdom, when a mate of an Indiaman having brought some home from China on speculation, gave it to a waterman's apprentice of the name of Burrows to dispose of for him. The young man, after hawking it about for some days, carried it to a Mr. Lloyd, who kept a coffee-house in Lombard-street. Mr. L. out of curiosity purchased the tea, and the first dish ever made in London was at his house. It is almost needless to mention that this Mr. Lloyd gave his name to the coffee-house which it still retains, though removed to the Royal Exchange; Burrows himself from some lucky chances arose to opulence, and is still remembered by some old inhabitants of the city.

ITALIAN HORSE-RACING.

[From M'Gill's Travels in Turkey, Italy, and Russia.]

THE method of horse-racing in Italy is singular: the horse run without riders; and to urge them on, little balls, with sharp points in them, are hung to their sides, which when the horse is employed in the race, act like spurs; they have also pieces of tin-foil fastened on their hinder parts, which, as the animals rush through the air, make a loud rustling noise, and frighten them forward.

I was much amused with the horse-racing at Ancona. A gun is fired when they first start, that preparations may be made to receive them at the farther end; when they have run half-way another gun is fired, and a third when they arrive at the goal. To ascertain, without dispute, which wins the race, across the winning post a thread is stretched, dipped in red lead, which the victor breaking, it leaves a red mark on his chest, and this mark is decisive. The first race was declared unfair, as one horse had started before the rest, and the governor ordered another to be run the following evening. To guard the course a great number of Roman soldiers, under arms, were ranged on each side of it, from one end to the other.

The morning after the first race the wind blew from the north, and was rather cold; I was sitting with his excellency the governor, Signor Vidoni, when a messenger arrived from the general, with his compliments, requesting that the race might be deferred 'till another day, as he thought the weather too cold to put his troops under arms; the governor replied to him, that "as the weather was not too cold for the ladies, he thought it was not too much so for Roman soldiers." I have seen on a day which only threatened rain, a guard of Romans

turn

turn out, every one of whom had an umbrella under his arm, the drummer and fifer alone excepted.

Remarks on the Executions of Lord Russel and Algernon Sidney.

[From the History of the Reign of James II. written by the late Right Hon. C. J. Fox.]

THE proceedings in Sidney's case were still more detestable than those in that of Lord Russel. The production of papers, containing speculative opinions upon government and liberty, written long before, and perhaps never even intended to be published, together with the use made of those papers, in considering them as a substitute for the second witness to the overt act, exhibited such a compound of wickedness and nonsense as is hardly to be paralleled in the history of juridical tyranny. But the validity of pretences was little attended to, at that time, in the case of a person whom the court had devoted to destruction; and upon evidence such as has been stated, was this great and excellent man condemned to die. Pardon was not to be expected.

Mr. Hume says, that such an interference on the part of the king, though it might have been an act of heroic generosity, could not be regarded as an indispensable duty. He might have said, with more propriety, that it was idle to expect that the government, after having incurred so much guilt in order to obtain the sentence, should, by remitting it, relinquish the object, just when it was within its grasp. The same historian considers the jury as highly blameable, and so do I; but what was their guilt, in comparison of that of the court who tried, and of the government who prosecuted, in this infamous cause? Yet the jury, being the only party that can with any colour be stated as acting independently of the government, is the only one mentioned by him as blameable. The prosecutor is wholly omitted in his censure, and so is the court; this last, not from any tenderness for the judge, (who, to do this author justice, is no favourite with him,) but lest the odious connection between that branch of the judicature and the government should strike the reader too forcibly; for Jefferies, in this instance, ought to be regarded as the mere tool and instrument, (a fit one, no doubt,) of the prince who had appointed him for the purpose of this and similar services. Lastly, the king is gravely introduced on the question of pardon, as if he had had no prior concern in the cause, and were now to decide upon the propriety of extending mercy to a criminal condemned by a court of judicature; nor are we once reminded what that judicature was, by whom appointed, by whom influenced, by whom called upon,

to receive that detestable evidence, the very recollection of which, even at this distance of time, fires every honest heart with indignation.

As well might we palliate the murders of Tiberius, who seldom put to death his victims without a previous decree of his senate. The moral of all this seems to be, that whenever a prince can, by intimidation, corruption, illegal evidence, or other such means, obtain a verdict against a subject whom he dislikes, he may cause him to be executed without any breach of indispensable duty; nay that it is an act of heroic generosity if he spare him. I never reflect on Mr. Hume's statement of this matter but with the deepest regret. Widely as I differ from him upon many other occasions, this appears to me to be the most reprehensible passage of his whole work. A spirit of adulation towards deceased princes, though in a good measure free from the imputation of interested meanness which is justly attached to flattery, when applied to living monarchs; yet, as it is less intelligible, with respect to its motives, than the other, so is it in its consequences, still more pernicious to the general interests of mankind. Fear of censure from contemporaries will seldom have much effect upon men in situations of unlimited authority; they will too often flatter themselves, that the same power which enables them to commit the crime, will secure them from reproach. The dread of posthumous infamy, therefore, being the only restraint, their consciences excepted, upon the passions of such persons, it is lamentable that this last defence, (feeble enough at best,) should in any degree be impaired; and impaired it must be, if not totally destroyed, when tyrants can hope to find in a man like Hume, no less eminent for the integrity and benevolence of his heart, than for the depth and soundness of his understanding, an apologist for even their foulest murders.

Thus fell Russel and Sidney, two names that will, it is hoped, be for ever dear to every English heart. When their memory shall cease to be an object of respect and veneration, it requires no spirit of prophecy to foretell that English liberty will be fast approaching to its final consummation. Their deportment was such as might be expected from men who knew themselves to be suffering, not for their crimes, but for their virtues. In courage they were equal, but the fortitude of Russel, who was connected with the world by private and domestic ties, which Sidney had not, was put to the severer trial; and the story of the last days of this excellent man's life, fills the mind with such a mixture of tenderness and admiration, that I know not any scene in history that more powerfully excites our sympathy, or goes more directly to the heart.

Answer, by a Correspondent, to his own Anagram, inserted June 27.

YE riddlers, so highly renown'd for your wit,
I expected ere this you my theme would have hit;
But since, for three months, it unanswer'd has lain,
I will, to oblige you, the mystery explain:
The crime which I meant is the POACHING of game,
And CHAMPION, as now I declare, is my name.

Answer, by Typographus, of Exeter, to J. A. Dyer's Rebus, inserted August 2.

YE ILLUSTRIOUS sons of Britain,
Give the Spaniards further hope,
Aided by your boundless valour
To shake off the Gallic yoke.

☞ We have received the like answer from W. Petherick, of St. Austell; F. Arden, and S. Duck, of South Petherton; Mary Davis, J. Trood, W. D. Champion, and J. Melhuish, of Bridgewater; T. Whicker, J. Treadwin, and J. Sanders, of Exeter; Ardelio; T. P. of Chard; and R. Loosemore, of Tiverton.

A CHARADE, *by T. Pearse, of Chard.*

A Famous bird you first will find,
Which must be of the female kind;
An admiral's name you'll bring to light,
Who oft in Nelson's fleet did fight:
When you these parts have join'd quite clear,
A certain fruit they'll make appear.

A CHARADE, *by J. Vellenoweth, near Helston.*

IF o'er desart tracts you wander,
There my first you'll find I trow;
Or where limpid streams meander,
Gently thro' the vales below;

Seek the plain, where battle's raging,
Where the death-wing'd bullets fly,
Where each fearless host's engaging,
There my next you will descry:

These, connected, will present
To your view an instrument.

An ENIGMA, *by W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater.*

DEEP in the earth, remote from Phœbus' ray,
I lay at ease, 'till man made me his prey,
Forc'd from my dark abode at his commands,
Ere form'd aright I pass thro' various hands;
I'm cut and stabb'd, by grievous ills oppress'd,
And forc'd, at length, to stand a fiery test.
As you are led my fabric to survey,
You'll find my back will sundry holes display;
In number eighty-five, completely square,
Which prove the torments I've been doom'd to bear;
But on my face, with equal ease, are found,
Seven hundred sixty-five, and those quite round.

POETRY.

WRITTEN DURING AN AUTUMN SPENT IN TOWN.

UNPASTORAL fate! condemn'd to bear
Town, and its noise, its dust, its care,
In this best season of the year,
When autumn holds her sway!
Sweet autumn! friendly to the muse,
In vain dost thou thy tints diffuse,
Thine evening sun—no rural views
To court its parting ray.

Nought but the mansions of the great,
Windows of gloom, and walls of state,
The proud, inhospitable gate
Whose hinges slowly move;
Slow as when wretches urge their plea,
And av'rice grasps it scanty fee)
Autumn, are scenes like these for thee?
Thee whom the virtues love?

Oft I recall thy social feast,
No russet-garb excludes the guest,
And plenty, in her golden vest,
Smiles on the sun-burnt train.
Music perchance may tune the reed,
And grace some loose-rob'd damsel lead
Round the tall oak or verdant mead,
Tho' bred on lowliest plain.

How chang'd the group! a wrangling throng
Jostle, with many a curse, along,
Squabbling for places loud and strong,
In sultry streets at noon.
To see some mortal, plump and wise,
Cram in a quart his portly size,
Walk o'er the Thames, or tempt the skies
In the new-found balloon.

Far off the tufted hill, and far
The glimpse of village steeple there,
Chiming its single bell for prayer;
Far off the simple scene.
Dear to the simple heart—the glade
That meeting boughs o'erspread with shade,
And the low bench for converse made,
With vista down the green.

S. W.

Lines, addressed to a Company of young Persons, whilst viewing the Ruins of Kirkstall Abbey, in Yorkshire.

By CORNELIUS CAYLEY.

SEE how the sharp, corroding tooth of time
Hath rent these massy walls! The stones dissolve!
And, like the feeble sinews of old age,
Relax, and shrink, and tumble to the ground!

Ah

Ah me! shall ruthless time's devouring pow'r
Thus bow the firmest works of busy man?
'Tis even so! Yea, lastly, he himself,
The great projector of these haughty piles,
With all his riches, honours, and renown,
Hides his poor head in dust—and is no more!

Come then, my frieds, upon a surer base
Let's build such pleasures as will ne'er decay;
Such as in endless youthful beauty shine
When life's gay dream (like to a tale that's told)
Is past, and in oblivion's shade forgot.
Safe on that Rock, which rears its noble head
Beyond mutation's stroke, and ev'ry foe,
Let's build our heav'nly house! A house wherein
No moth, nor rust, nor thief, nor time, nor death,
Can e'er approach, its treasures to annoy.

Now in your bloom, and health, and smiling years,
The golden season grasp! Now lay up store
In fairest mansions of celestial peace!
So, when this earthly, transient scene is o'er,
Bright cherub angels, natives of that land,
Shall lead you, raptur'd, to your radiant home,
Where all the myriads of the ransom'd throng
Shall hail you welcome to the mount of bliss!
There God's unsully'd light, and life, and love,
In one incessant glorious blaze shall crown
Our souls with joy and everlasting rest,
Beyond what man or angel's tongue can name,
Or largest stretch of human heart desire!

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

THE JUST CAUSE.

IMPROMPTU.

THE battle's won! A glorious conquest gain'd!
Heaven said, "Let it be so—'twas thus ordaind."
Then Britons, push your noble resolution,
Blest in your king, your laws, and constitution!
The Lord of Battles sanctifies the fight;
The sword of God is aiding Gideon's* might!

F. MORTIMER, P. T.

Exeter, September 17, 1808.

* Judges vii.

S O N G.

DEAR Chloe, let not pride devour
That little, vain, affected heart,
Because I said the fairest flower
Ne'er breath'd the sweets thy lips impart.

Nor spoil that face with airs so silly,
Nor point those lovely eyes with scorn,
Because I swore the rose and lily
Ne'er gave such beauties to the morn:

Yes! thou art like—so like the flower,
Its warning fate should fill with sorrow;
The blooming plaything of an hour,
But pluck'd, and torn, and dead to-morrow.

S. W.